

**Endeavors.**

Mary J. Duncan, Zimmerman, O.: "I received a card from you some time ago, asking us to organize a branch society. We consulted the matter and have agreed to wait and see the constitution, and then we can see what we can do. There are only a few of us. We number fifteen members, and are trying what we can do towards building a church house."

The *Constitution and By-laws* were published in the *EVANGELIST*, Feb. 8th. Things await your pleasure. There is nothing now in the way of your establishing a *Branch Society* in your church. We pray you do so immediately. Hope you may be successful in your erection unto the Lord.

Laura E. N. Grossnickle, Mapleville, Md.: "I anxiously await the Constitution which has been promised us in this week's *EVANGELIST*. I do hope that we will be able to make the S. S. C. E. a success, and I think we will if we are all faithful, if we work hard enough and pray enough. There will be many discouragements, I do not doubt, but each victory will help us another to win."

There is a *great work* as eagerly awaiting the formation of these societies as you anxiously awaited the Constitution. By God's help one learns to avoid discouragements; observing them, to calmly step aside, until they disappear, and then to quietly resume the journey. Very often melt the dew-drops with the sun. It were best, at times, not to see the shadows in our way; for they may vanish ere we reach the spot where once they hovered, dark and ominous. Then we have wept in vain, and broken our poor hearts for naught.

Ella Kulp, Pottstown, Pa.: "Your letter of several weeks ago was received, but not until a few days ago, as I was in Philadelphia when it came, so I ask you to excuse my delay in answering. I shall be glad to serve you in whatever way I can if I am competent to do so."

I pardon as I hope for pardon. Your ability will accomplish much. We are grateful for your proffered services. Hope we shall be friends. Yours is a goodly field in which to labor. May your reports be encouraging. We need enthusiasm. Give us something that will keep us happy. The angels will rejoice. 'Tis for Christ's sake.

Geo. W. De Bolt, Carleton, Neb.: "I can promise you some good workers here for your society."

Thank you. We will kindly accept any new workers. There is room for all. Our purposes will keep us busy.

Laura Slotter, Columbiana, O.: "Your loving appeal reached me some time ago via the *EVANGELIST*, but owing, or on account of so many other pressing duties, did not send an earlier response. And now, although we have been strangers heretofore, I feel perfectly at liberty to write you a letter. Perhaps you did not know that you have a sister in Columbiana, who has been anxiously waiting for a work in some tangible form to be started amongst the sisters. Well, I am glad a move has been made to start a work at which the sisters can have a chance to manifest their earnestness in the cause of winning souls for Christ. Although there are many duties constantly requiring our attention, the truly converted woman is just as constantly thinking and planning how that her work might be used to advantage in evangelizing the world. Yes, my dear sister, a deeply earnest, unselfish love for Jesus our only Savior, as well as a strong desire to bring others to a knowledge of his goodness, I think, should be the *aim* of every spiritually enlightened woman, as well as man, and I believe the right to engage in the work should not be withheld from her. Of course we must be humble, modest, and not expect flattery, if we would be successful in any good work,—show by our words and actions that we love the cause more than we do ourselves. I shall be glad to assist when once the new society gets to work. Wishing you success in your new undertaking, and hoping that you may not become discouraged in the good work."

I am glad you have used the privilege of writing me a letter. Wish all would do the same. I knew that I had a dear sister in Columbiana. We are not strangers. It need not deter correspondence if we were. My little niece, Estella Sterling, has

the picture of "Aunt Laura." The children remember you. I was not previously aware though, that you were interested in the S. S. C. E. I could not know unless you told me so. I might suppose that, you being a good woman, zealous in the Lord, would unite your praises with ours in this noble cause. But that is not positive proof, and therefore, not as invigorating as to have you manifest your love and earnestness for practical good by a soul-inspiring, heart-cheering, tangible letter to drive away discouragements, there being nothing to discourage, so intense it be in its eagerness for active work. The truly great and well-deserving is never flattered. He feels his worth and knows his imperfections. Such a consciousness makes him "humble" and "modest." He who loves himself the most is loved by no one else the least.

Annie S. Arnold, Montana, Kan.: "I am a reader of the *EVANGELIST*, and know of your efforts to organize the society you allude to in your letter. I am heartily in sympathy with you, and will assist in any work that may promote the good cause. I would like to know the object of these local organizations, and what will be expected of them, so that I can make a clear statement to the sisters whom I shall address and solicit. Have you any prescribed method by which these societies are organized? If so, I should like to know what it is, so we may go about it in a business, systematic way. There is nothing accomplished without a purpose, you know, and that purpose must be presented in its strongest light to induce the sisters to become active members. I feel the necessity of more system in carrying on church work, and am ready to do my part. You have written to my mother on this same subject, I believe. She is now in Texas, visiting her daughter Lizzie, who is sick, and will not likely return for some weeks. Let this short note of mine answer your card also, until she returns. If she wishes to add anything further, she can do it when she comes home. The Galesburg church, formerly a branch of our (the Pleasant Valley) church has recently organized into a body separate. You might address Sister Mae Clum, if you wished to organize in that church. She is a good worker."

The world is written o'er with change. You were a school-girl when I first met you at the Ashland College. Now you are a woman seeking to perform your duties to your God and fellowman. Hope we may get along in our endeavors for Christ. The work is of more importance than the development of mind, being the eternal happiness of souls. 'Tis characteristic of you to put straightforward questions. "Seek and ye shall find." The S. S. C. E. is, figuratively, a tree, each auxiliary society being a branch thereof. These local organizations are to be a moral force in their community. They will be expected to raise a mission fund, by which the principles of our creed, *The New Testament*, may be propagated. They are also to devise and execute plans for the spiritual growth of their members and the conversion of their immediate neighbors. In answer to your question—No; except their adoption and fulfillment of the Constitution and By-Laws. We hope our sisters will go about it in a "business, systematic way." A "method"—the one by which the sisters of our home congregation intend organizing tomorrow—would be to call a meeting of the sisters for this purpose, elect a chairman and secretary, *pro tem*, read and adopt the constitution and by-laws, secure permanent officers for the remainder of the year, ending with the month of Sept., '88. It is our wish and prayer that all these societies work with a true purpose, their only aim being the good of their race through the holy love of Christ. I wrote your mother. You were kind to answer for her. I remember your sister Lizzie, too. Hope she may recover soon. Bro. Bauman gave me the name of Mae Clum at the same time that he sent yours. I have had an encouraging letter from this good woman.

J. M. Tombaugh, Washington C. H., O.: "Please pardon my long delay in complying with your request. Think I have been negligent. I am now ready to atone for it by cheerfully submitting to any penance you may impose. If I can aid you and your society in any way, command me.

Do you have the names of any ladies in the Farmersville or Winchester congregations? If not I will send you names and addresses. I am preaching for those churches now. From the Fair View congregation I send the following: Misses Dora Hegler, Carrie McCoy and Ella Ware. Address each at Washington C. H., O. With many good wishes for the success of the S. C. E."

You are pardoned, being so eager to humbly atone. Your negligence was not carelessness. 'Twill be a pleasure to receive your aid. We mildly command you to lend assistance to those dear sisters in organizing their society. Your further duties will be made known when that one is rightly performed. We do not have the names of any ladies in the Farmersville or Winchester congregations. They will be kindly received. Thanks for those sent. Dora Hegler was a good student at Ashland. My love to her. The others I do not know. Hope I shall. "Many good wishes for the success of the S. C. E." Thank you. My every breath is a prayer for its success. It is the ideal of my life—the one dream of my childhood. God grant that it may be a benefit to our race.

M. M. STERLING.

Masontown, Pa.

**Ambition.**

BY JOHN T. KOLP.

Some conceited wights who study party politics more than philosophy or ethics, call all the laudible desires of the human heart ambition, aiming to strip the monster of its deformity that they may use it as a livery of heaven to serve the devil. Lexicographers define ambition to be an earnest desire for power, honor, preferment, pride. The part that is credited to power is of doubtful grandeur and the power that is acquired by ambition is held by a slender tenure—a mere rope of sand. Its hero often receives the applause of the multitude one day and its execration the next. The summit of vain ambition is often the depth of misery. Based on a sandy foundation, it falls before the blast of envy and the tornado faction. It is inflated by a gaseous thirst for power like a balloon with hydrogen and is in constant danger of being exploded, by the very element that causes its elevation. It eschews Charity and deals largely in the corrosive sublimate of a false spirit. Ambition, like the gold of the miser, is the sepulchre of the other passions of man. It is the grand centre around which they move with centripetal force. Ambition endangers body and soul for time and eternity.

Dear reader, if you desire peace of mind, shun the ambitious man. He will use you as some men do their horses; ride you all day without food and give you post meat for supper. He will gladly make a bridge of you on which to walk into power, provided he can pass over toll free. Let your aim be more lofty than the highest pinnacle ambition can reach. Nothing is pure but heaven. Let this be the prize you seek. In short, the road ambition travels is too narrow for friendship, too crooked for love, too rugged for honesty, too dark for science, too hilly for happiness. The ambitious man lives as though the world was made altogether for him and not he for the world. To take in everything and to part with nothing. Charity is counted no grace with him, and gratitude no virtue. The cries of the poor and suffering never enter his ears, or if they do, he has always one ear readier to let them out than the other to take them in.

**Duty.**

"Duty" is a grand word. When Admiral Nelson, at the battle of Trafalgar, signaled to the English navy, "England expects every man to do his duty," a thrill of enthusiasm was left by every Englishman in that fleet. The thought of duty has held many a man firm amidst a thousand perils. Yes, "duty" is an iron word, "privilege" is a golden word. Can we for one moment imagine angels or glorified saints obeying the behests of the Master because it is their "duty?" When the heavenly hosts sped swiftly to Bethlehem's plain to announce the tidings of peace, was the thought of "duty" pre-eminent in their midst? As permission was given to them to descend to the shepherds, did they not rather regard it as a privilege? "Duty" may be an iron word, but the purest gold alone can be coined into privilege.—PITTSBURGH CHR. ADVOCATE.